

# Hot Air



## Message from the President

August 2022

Hello everyone. I hope all is well. It seems like an awful lot of folks in my neighborhood and that I know have been contracting COVID. These new variants are challenging. Some of the folks I know that have had to deal with it have been really sick. Although I'm tired of having to deal with it, COVID sure isn't done with us.

With that said, we will be having a meeting this Wednesday, August 3rd at LA Romeria Park. The meeting schedule is unchanged and will begin at 7:30. Masks are optional but recommended. Consider bringing your latest project to the meeting and share your experiences with your fellow club members.

At last month's meeting, Bob Okita, brought a few of his latest projects. As I mentioned previously, there is a group of guys running boats at Alondra Park. Bob has found a few boats at stores that sell old models and has purchased a couple of classic model boats. Bob being Bob, he then converts them to RC. I have recently included one of these boats in our newsletter. I have also included a photograph of his latest boat conversion here. I believe Bob said he purchased this one for around twenty bucks. Additionally, Bob has been experimenting with gliders that are dropped from quadcopters. The gliders have sort of a Space Shuttle profile and are made from flat foam sheets. See the attached photo. Bob says they have been getting pretty consistent, long glides.

Speaking of experimenting, I have been playing with a plane I never was able to get balanced. The plane is a foamy Sopwith biplane. I assembled the kit about fifteen years ago while I was recovering from one of my ear surgeries. Being a WW1 biplane, it has a very short nose. The recommended original

battery was a seven cell NiCad driving the supplied geared DC brushed motor. Initial attempts to fly the plane were unsuccessful. The plane was underpowered and tail heavy. If you look at the photos I have included, one shows the opening for the battery at the bottom of the cowl. There is only

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, August 3rd**  
**La Romeria Park**  
**7:30pm**

so far forward you can bring the battery to adjust balance. Switching to an eight cell pack made the balance issue worse. However, the additional cell improved the power issue. What did we used to say when discussing how to help

someone improve the performance of a plane? "Add a cell and call me in the morning". I decided to experiment with a LiPo pack knowing I would have to add weight to balance the plane. Since the LiPo pack is shorter and lighter than the original pack, its weight is further forward. Lead weights in the area of the battery opening provided balance. The overall weight of the plane is reduced compared to the 7 and 8 cell packs. The plane is now controllable and flies,

### Upcoming Fun-Flys

**Del Cerro**      **August 6th**  
**Entradero**      **None**

well, like a slow WW1 biplane. I don't think the plane will get a lot of airtime. The landing gear and overall construction is fragile. It was a fun project.

I got to see the new Top Gun movie. I really enjoyed it. Especially having had worked on the design and development of the F/A-18 Super Hornet from 92-96. This included the early test flights. Planes of Fame in Chino has had Tom Cruise's P-51 on display for the past few weeks. The plane is in the movie. I think Cruise has had it since 2001. The plane was originally built as a K model for photo reconnaissance. Cruise had it restored as a D model. The plane is immaculate, as you would expect. I have never had a car with the amount of clear coat this plane has. Just gorgeous. I walked the other hangars and saw a beautiful de Havilland Beaver. I



thought I recognized the plane and asked a docent if my guess was correct. The staff was under direction to not identify the owner of the plane. However, after a little prodding, he acknowledged that the plane “could” belong to Harrison Ford. If you do a search on the web, you can find pictures of Ford with this airplane. I’ve included pictures of both planes. Pretty cool.

I was talking to a friend of mine who moved out of the area a few years ago. He lives in a town south of San Francisco. A group of guys were flying electric planes at the local field and one guy lawn darters his ducted fan jet. The plane caught the grass on fire. Several acres burned before the local fire department got everything under control. The cause of the fire may have been an exposed, hot speed control. It was impossible to determine the exact cause, since the evidence was consumed. Regardless, if you are flying over dry grass and shrubs and lose your plane, be prepared to recover it quickly in order to prevent a similar situation.

Here is [the link](#) for the August AMA events in California. As expected with the summer heat, there aren’t a lot of activities scheduled. Consider snapping a few pictures and sharing them with us if you attend one of these events or visit a field.

West Torrance is running their summer training

camps at Entradero Park. This appears to be the same program they have run previously and usually only lasts a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, the schedule is not posted on the WTLL website and the folks I have talked to do not know the schedule. The field we fly from is not involved in the camps. Per our agreement with the City, we are not allowed to fly while these camps are in session. I will attempt to get down to the fields and find out when the camps will finish and let you know.

Flying conditions for the Saturday August 6th Fun-Fly at Del Cerro should be good. Predictions are for west-southwest winds at 14 mph. Temperatures should be in the high seventies. Make sure to bring plenty to drink and protect yourself from the sun. Guys usually show up around noon for the Fun-Fly.

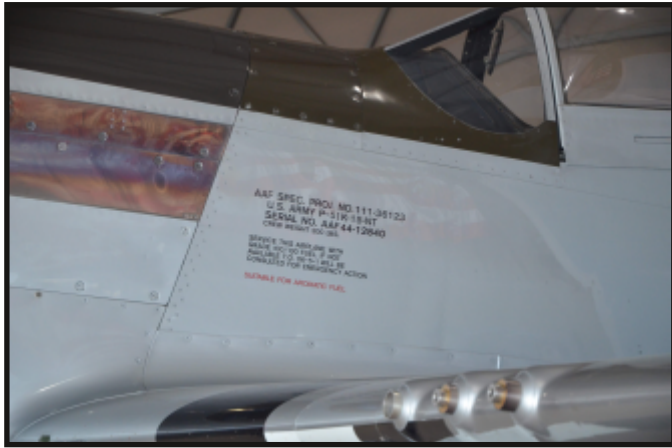
Once again, please get your PSF 2022 renewal to Don if you haven’t already. Bring your application (and a friend) to our Wednesday meeting this week if you don’t want to mail it. You can always find the application on our [website](#).

Come to the meeting and share your latest project. See you there.

All the best,  
Jeff

### Tom Cruise's P-51 at Planes of Fame





(Maybe) Harrison Ford's de Havilland Beaver



Bob Okita's Boat Project





Jeff's Sopwith Biplane



*Still need to renew?  
Please send Don your package, or  
bring it to this month's meeting.*